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COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE AIR FORCE

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Mission: *Offer and award job-related associate in applied science degrees and other academic credentials that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in retention, and support the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members.*

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) serves the educational needs of the AF enlisted community by offering associate in applied science degrees and other credentialing programs that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in retention, and support the career transitions of AF enlisted members. It is the only federally chartered institution in the United States that awards college degrees solely to USAF enlisted personnel.

The college was established in April 1972 at Randolph AFB, Texas; relocated to its present location, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in April 1979; and realigned under Air University in July 1993. The college mailed its first official transcript in November 1972 and issued its first career education certificate in August 1973.

The college received degree-granting authority in July 1976 and awarded its first associate in applied science degree in April 1977. The CCAF is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; telephone number [404] 679-4501) to award the associate in applied science degree.

With more than 373,000 registered students, the college is the largest multicampus community college in the world. Its affiliated schools are located in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign locations. More than 6,000 CCAF faculty members provide quality instruction for the professional development of enlisted personnel. The college has awarded more than 220,000 associate in applied science degrees to enlisted members of the active duty Air Force; ANG; Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC); and enlisted members of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps teaching in CCAF-affiliated schools.

Associate in Applied Science Degree

CCAF awards associate in applied science degrees in the following areas.

- Aircraft and Missile Maintenance
- Allied Health
- Electronics and Telecommunications
- Logistics and Resources
- Public and Support Services

CCAF degree programs consist of a minimum of 64 semester hours. To graduate, students must hold the journeyman (five) level in the appropriate Air Force specialty code (AFSC) at the time of program completion and have a minimum of 16 semester hours of CCAF credit applied to their degree program. Students must complete all degree requirements before separating, retiring, or becoming commissioned officers.

Academic Requirements	Semester Hours
Technical Education	24
Leadership, Management, and Military Studies	6
Physical Education	4
General Education (3 hours in each of following)	15
Oral Communication	3
Written Communication	3
Mathematics	3
Social Science	3
Humanities	3
Program Elective	15
TOTAL	64

CCAF System

The college functions as a single institution with respect to credit documentation, records, and educational program management. The system is supported by the Air Force Recruiting Service, USAF Occupational Measurement Squadron, Airman Classification Squadron, and Headquarters AETC. These agencies provide the recruitment, job analysis, and staff support required for successful operation of the system.

Affiliated Schools

The instructional programs of the college are conducted by the Air Force in traditional learning environments. Even when advanced instructional technology and individualized instruction are used, students attend regularly scheduled classes and complete specified course work under assigned faculty in much the same manner as students in the classrooms of most traditional civilian colleges, except that students typically attend one course at a time, eight hours each day, five days a week until satisfactorily completing the course.

What is often perceived as nontraditional about the college is its form of organization and administration. AF schools provide instruction at numerous locations because of the geographic mobility of the students as they pursue their AF occupations. Accordingly, each of these separate education and training organizations, called affiliated schools, is a component of a worldwide educational system.

Education Services Centers

The general education component of every degree program must be completed in civilian colleges and/or through nationally recognized testing programs, during off-duty time, with the Air Force paying all or a portion of the tuition costs. Counseling of students is accomplished by trained education counselors located on all major AF installations and CCAF advisors at each ANG and AFRC installation.

The education services centers administer the College-Level Examination Program, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support Subject Standardized Tests, and Excelsior College Examinations. They also conduct formal graduations worldwide at least once each year, usually during the months of April and October.

Advisory Bodies

The college uses several advisory bodies composed of members from the CCAF administrative staff, CCAF system, and appointed civilian members. These advisory bodies provide the college with direction and customer feedback, set policies and procedures, and facilitate communication throughout the system.

Board of Visitors. The CCAF Board of Visitors is a federal advisory committee consisting of up to 12 appointed members from education, business, and industry. The appointed members represent the public interest and serve with ex officio members who represent the interests of the Air Force, the institution, faculty, and student body.

Affiliated Schools Advisory Panel. Members represent categories of technical training, field training, enlisted professional military education, and command-sponsored schools affiliated with the college. The panel provides a forum for reaffirming CCAF's commitment to providing job-relevant educational opportunities to all enlisted personnel.

Education Services Advisory Panel. The panel includes the CCAF dean of academic affairs and education services advisor, Headquarters USAF and MAJCOM personnel, base-level education services personnel, and ANG/AFRC counterparts. The panel provides an interface between the college and the education services system.

Expanded Policy Council. Twenty-two representatives from all elements of the CCAF system make up the Policy Council. The council, chaired by the CCAF dean of academic affairs, meets twice a year and submits recommendations concerning academic policies, degree programs, award of credit, academic standards, affiliation of AF schools with the college, and other policy matters to the commander/president.

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